

Amendment/Reply

Applicant: Renato J. Recio et al.

Serial No.: 09/980,760

Filed: April 15, 2002

Docket No.: 10003629-2 (H300.136.101)

Title: CONGESTION MANAGEMENT IN DISTRIBUTED COMPUTER SYSTEM

REMARKS

This Amendment/Reply accompanies the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) 37 CFR 1.114 and is in response to the Advisory Action mailed March 13, 2005 and the Final Office Action mailed December 17, 2004. In this Amendment/Reply claims 2, 8, 9, 14, 20, and 21 have been amended. Claims 8, 9, 14, 20, and 21 have been amended to correct typographical errors. Claims 3 and 15 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 26 and 27 have been added. **Applicants request that filing fees be calculated on the basis of entry of this Amendment/Reply.** Claims 2, 4-14 and 6-27 remain in the application and are presented for consideration and allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 2-5, 10-12, 14-17, and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Chiussi et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,701,292.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Chiussi et al. Patent does not teach or suggest the invention of independent claims 2 and 14. Claim 2 recites a distributed computer system including a congestion control mechanism responding to the detected congestion by multiplicatively decreasing the variable injection rate, wherein the variable injection rate (IR) is multiplicatively decreased according to $IR(i+1) = IR(i) * 1/F1$, wherein F1 is a constant. Independent claim 14 recites a method of controlling congestion in a distributed computer system including multiplicatively decreasing the variable injection rate in response to the detected congestion including multiplicatively decreasing the variable injection rate (IR) according to $IR(i+1) = IR(i) * 1/F1$, wherein F1 is a constant. Applicants submit that the Chiussi et al. Patent fails to teach or suggest these limitations.

The Chiussi et al. Patent discloses a method and apparatus for controlling the data transfer rates of data sources in an asynchronous transfer mode-based network that utilizes maximum and minimum data transfer rates of sources in the network. A switch instructs data sources within the network to modify their data transfer rates by detecting potential congestion and congested states. (Abstract). Each data source also transmits an identifier or address to a switch 1 which identifies it from every other data source in the network. The data source 1, 2, ... n periodically sends an electronic code or RM cell to the switch 1.

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Subsequently, the switch 1 will return an electronic code or RM cell to each data source. The RM cell, among other things, contains information regarding the data transfer rate of each data source. When an RM cell is sent by data source 1, 2, ...n to the switch 1, the RM cell contains data transfer rate information regarding the data transfer or bit rate of the data source. When the RM cell is sent by the switch 1 to a data source 1, 2, ...n, the RM cell contains data transfer rate information that instructs the data source to either increase or decrease its data transfer rate by a specific amount or instructs the data source to operate at a specific transfer rate. (Column 3, lines 47-65).

The Chiussi et al. Patent fails to teach or suggest **a congestion control mechanism responding to detected congestion by multiplicatively decreasing the variable injection rate, wherein the variable injection rate (IR) is multiplicatively decreased according to $IR(i+1) = IR(i) * 1/F1$, wherein F1 is a constant as recited in claim 2 and multiplicatively decreasing the variable injection rate in response to the detected congestion including multiplicatively decreasing the variable injection rate (IR) according to $IR(i+1) = IR(i) * 1/F1$, wherein F1 is a constant as recited in claim 14.** The Examiner submits that these limitations are disclosed in column 4, lines 17-21 and column 4, lines 58-column 5, line 11 of the Chiussi et al Patent (Office Action, page 3) and column 1, lines 14-54 and column 4, line 58-column 5, line 48 (Advisory Action, page 2).

The Chiussi et al. Patent discloses that the data sources are instructed to either increase their data transfer rate or reduce their data transfer rate. The data sources do not **multiplicatively decrease** the variable injection rate in response to the detected congestion as recited in claims 2 and 14. Instead, the Chiussi et al. Patent states that the RM cell contains data transfer rate information that instructs the data source to either increase or decrease its data transfer rate by a specific amount or instructs the data source to operate at a specific data transfer rate. (Column 3, lines 62-65). Accordingly, the Chiussi et al. Patent does not teach or suggest multiplicatively decreasing the variable injection rate in response to detected congestion where the variable injection rate (IR) is **multiplicatively decreased based on the previous value of IR** according to $IR(i+1) = IR(i) * 1/F1$ as recited in claims 2 and 14.

Further, Applicants respectfully submitted that the Examiner referenced text of the Chiussi et al. Patent at column 4, line 58-column 5, line 48 does not disclose multiplicatively decreasing the variable injection rate in response to the detected congestion. Rather, the

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referenced text discloses how the determination for whether the data transfer rate needs to be increased or decreased is made. The Chiussi et al. Patent discloses that controller 6 monitors at least one congestion indicator. When the congestion indicator equals or exceeds a first threshold, the controller 6 controls and instructs the transmitter 8 to transmit electronic code or an RM cell to a first group of data sources that have a data transfer rate greater than or equal to the switch minimum data transfer rate multiplied by a first variable. The controller 6 further instructs or controls the transmitter 8 to transmit electronic code to a second group of data sources each of which has a data transfer rate lower than the switch minimum data transfer rate multiplied by the first variable. Upon receiving the data transfer rate information from the switch 1, the first data sources are instructed to reduce their data transfer rate, and each of the second data sources are instructed to increase their data transfer rate, provided, however, that no one of the second data sources can increase its rate unless its data transfer rate is less than the switch maximum data transfer rate multiplied by a second variable. The first variable may be an increase pressure factor, a fraction, or equal to one. (Column 4, line 58-column 5, line 14). The increased pressure factor may be used as the first variable to avoid reducing the data transfer rate of sources whose data transfer rate is very close to the switch minimum data transfer rate. (Column 5, lines 44-47).

Therefore, the referenced text of the Chiussi et al. Patent discloses a process for detecting congestion and determining whether data transfer rates should be increased or decreased. Once it is determined that a data transfer rate should be increased or decreased, the Chiussi et al. Patent discloses raising or lowering the data transfer rate by a specific amount (an additive function) or instructs the data source to operate at a specific data transfer rate. (Column 3, lines 62-65). In contrast, claims 2 and 14 include limitations of multiplicatively decreasing the variable injection rate based on the current injection rate. Furthermore, claims 2 and 14 specifically include limitations of multiplicatively decreasing the variable injection rate by taking the current injection rate and multiplying it times a fractional constant to obtain the new injection rate. The multiplicative decreasing limitations of claims 2 and 14 are not taught or suggested by the additive function disclosed by the Chiussi et al. Patent.

In view of the above, the distributed computer system of independent claim 2 and the method of controlling congestion in a distributed computer system of claim 14 is not taught

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or suggested by the Chiussi et al. Patent. Dependent claims 3-5 and 10-12 further define patentably distinct independent claim 2. Dependent claims 15-17 and 22-24 further define patentably distinct claim 14. Accordingly, dependent claims 3-5, 10-12, 15-17, and 22-24 are also believed to be allowable.

Further, dependent claim 4, which further defines patentably distinct claim 2, includes the limitation **wherein the congestion control mechanism responds to detected subsiding of congestion by multiplicatively increasing the variable injection rate**. As discussed above with reference to claims 2 and 14, the Chiussi et al. Patent only instructs the data source to increase or decrease its data transfer rate or operate at a specific data transfer rate. The Chiussi et al. Patent does not disclose **multiplicatively increasing** the variable injection rate.

In addition, dependent claim 5, which further defines patentably distinct claim 2, includes the limitation **wherein the variable injection rate (IR) is multiplicatively increased according to $IR(i+1) = IR(i) * F2$, wherein F2 is a constant**. The Chiussi et al. Patent fails to teach or suggest this limitation expressed by this equation. Applicants can find nothing in the referenced text of the Chiussi et al. as submitted by the Examiner that teaches or suggests this limitation.

Further, dependent claim 12, which further defines patentably distinct claim 2, includes the limitation **wherein at least one routing device includes a congestion control mechanism responding to detected congestion by dropping frames that are marked droppable for a time period**. The Examiner submits that this limitation is taught by the Chiussi et al. Patent in columns 1, lines 14-54. (Office Action, page 3). Applicants can find nothing in the referenced text of the Chiussi et al. Patent that teaches or suggests this limitation. The referenced text is discussing the prior art and does not mention responding to detected congestion by dropping frames that are marked droppable for a time period.

Further, dependent claim 16, which further defines patentably distinct claim 14, includes the limitation **multiplicatively increasing the variable injection rate in response to the detected subsiding of congestion**. The Chiussi et al. Patent fails to disclose this limitation. As discussed above with reference to claims 2, 4, and 14, the Chiussi et al. Patent only instructs the data source to increase or decrease its data transfer rate or operate at a

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specific data transfer rate. The Chiussi et al. Patent does not disclose **multiplicatively increasing** the variable injection rate.

In addition, dependent claim 17, which further defines patentably distinct claim 16, includes the limitation **wherein multiplicatively increasing the variable injection rate includes multiplicatively increasing the variable injection rate (IR) according to $IR(i+1) = IR(i) * F2$, wherein F2 is a constant.** The Chiussi et al. Patent fails to teach or suggest this limitation expressed by this equation. As discussed above with reference to claim 5, Applicants can find nothing in the referenced text of the Chiussi et al. as submitted by the Examiner that teaches or suggests this limitation.

Further, dependent claim 24, which further defines patentably distinct claim 14, includes the limitation **dropping frames that are marked droppable for a time period in response to the detected congestion.** As discussed above with reference to claim 12, Applicants can find nothing in the referenced text of the Chiussi et al. Patent that teaches or suggests this limitation. The referenced text is discussing the prior art and does not mention responding to detected congestion by dropping frames that are marked droppable for a time period.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections to claims 2, 4, 5, 10-12, 14, 16-17, and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn and that these claims be allowed.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 6-9, 13, 18-21, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Chiussi Patent in view of Lauck et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,734,825.

Dependent claims 6-9 and 13 further define patentably distinct independent claim 2. Accordingly, dependent claims 6-9 and 13 are also believed to be allowable.

Dependent claims 18-21 and 25 further define patentably distinct independent claim 14. Accordingly, dependent claims 18-21 and 25 are also believed to be allowable.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections to claims 6-9, 13, 18-21, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn and that these claims be allowed.

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Added Claims

Claims 26-27 has been added. Applicants believe added claims 26-27 to be allowable over the art of record.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submits that pending claims 2, 4-14, and 16-27 are in form for allowance and are not taught or suggested by the cited references. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 2, 4-14, and 16-27 is respectfully requested.

No fees are required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16(b)(c). However, if such fees are required, the Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

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The Examiner is invited to contact either the Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number or William J. Streeter, Esq. at Telephone No. (970) 898-7247, Facsimile No. (970) 898-3886 to facilitate prosecution of this application. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, in an envelope address to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 18 day of April, 2005.

By 

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